

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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R 240603Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1991

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USOECD

PASS LABOR FOR SAMUEL, HEWITT, ALEXIS HERMAN; WHITE
HOUSE FOR DEPUTY COUNSEL MCKENNA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, OECD
SUBJECT: MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING,
MAY 17-19

REF: PARIS 16105

1. SUMMARY -
THE FOLLOWING MAJOR ITEMS OF MAY 17-19 MSAC MEETING
WERE APPROVED:
A) MEDIUM TERM EMPLOYMENT POLICY STATEMENT WITH MINOR
CHANGES FOR SUBMISSION TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING.
B) WORK PROGRAM, WITH US DEL GIVING SUPPORT FOR
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE
ECONOMY. THIS VIEW WAS SUPPORTED BY FRANCE, CANADA,
GREECE, JAPAN AND FINLAND. SECRETARIAT HOWEVER
NOT ENTHUSIASTIC.
C) STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER POLICIES IN
THE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS EMPHASIZING THAT BURDEN OF
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ADJUSTMENT SHOULD NOT BE PLACED WHOLEY ON LABOR
FORCE. MSAC ALSO AGREED TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING
A WORKING PARTY ON THE SUBJECT AT NEXT MEETING,
NOV.19-DEC.1, 1978. USDEL WAS HEADED BY DOL
ASSOCIATE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY HERBERT BLACKMAN
ACCOMPANIED BY LLOYD FELDMAN.
END SUMMARY.

2. PROGRESS REPORT OF DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS PLEADED FOR BALANCED DELEGATIONS (GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND EMPLOYER REPS) TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONFERENCE, NOTING THAT RESPONSE TO DATE HAS BEEN LIMITED; ASKED FOR LABOR MINISTRY INPUT TO JULY 4-6 CONFERENCE ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, AND NOTED RELATION BETWEEN LABOR AND EDUCATION AT 19-20 OCTOBER EDUCATION MINISTERIAL IN CONTEXT OF RESPONSE OF EDUCATION TO ISSUE OF LABOR MARKET AND WORKING LIFE.

3. POLICY STATEMENT ON MEDIUM-TERM EMPLOYMENT POLICIES WAS ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE AND SECGEN WAS REQUESTED TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO JUNE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. STATEMENT EMPHASIZES THAT MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, WHICH PROVED USEFUL IN 1973-75 RECESSION, SHOULD BE INCREASINGLY EMPLOYED IN SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY, ESPECIALLY DURING RECOVERY PHASE. STATEMENT URGES USE OF SELECTIVE MANPOWER POLICIES AS PART OF COMBINING MICRO AND MACRO ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO RAISE LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT. (THIS STATEMENT WAS DRAFTED BY BUREAU IN DUBLIN, APRIL 10 AND INCORPORATED MINOR LANGUAGE CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, AND UK.)

4. MIGRATION - COMMITTEE ENDORSED CONCLUSIONS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORT BY INDEPENDENT EXPERTS ON MIGRATION, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

5. LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND WORKING TIME - COMMITTEE ENDORSED PROPOSAL FOR AN ANALYSIS TO BE STARTED IN SECOND HALF OF 1978.

6. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS, THEIR LABOR MARKET AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS - USDEL SUBMITTED REVISED DATA FOR OECD REPORT WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED BY OECD AND SUBMITTED TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CERI GOVERNING BOARD. SECRETARIAT REQUESTED FURTHER MODIFICATIONS BEFORE JULY 31, 1978.

7. DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK FOR 1979 -
A) DIRECTOR GASS REMARKED THAT 1979 RESOURCES REMAIN AT 1978 LEVELS AND THAT WORK WOULD CONCENTRATE ON MEDIUM-TERM PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF "RELATIVE FAILURE" OF ECONOMIC POLICY. HE OBSERVED THAT SOCIAL POLICIES INCREASINGLY ARE BECOMING OBSTACLES TO ECONOMIC GROWTH. WITH REGARD TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP,

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HE DECLARED SITUATION UNSATISFACTORY (SEE REFTEL).
COMMITTEE NOTED THAT SECGEN WILL TAKE UP FUNDING PRO-
GRAM WITH COUNCIL. GASS SUGGESTED THAT WORK ON COLLEC-
TIVE BARGAINING WOULD BE BETTER FOCUSED FOLLOWING
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE IN JULY, AND THAT MSAC WORK ON
MNE'S WAS AT "STANDSTILL".

B) WHILE DISCUSSION OF WORK PROGRAM WAS VIGOROUS AND
DETAILED, COMMITTEE GENERALLY ENDORSED PROGRAM AND
REACTION WAS POSITIVE. COMMITTEE ACCEPTED SECRETARIAT
PROPOSAL TO EXAMINE PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND EX-
PENDITURE ON EMPLOYMENT, CONTINUING WORK ON
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION, AND CHANGING MANPOWER REQUI-
REMENTS.

C) WITH EXCEPTION OF SWEDEN (REHN), GENERAL REACTION
TO SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO RESUME COUNTRY POLICY
REVIEWS TO MONITOR EMPLOYMENT SITUATION WAS NEGATIVE.
HOWEVER, MSAC ALLOWED FOR "MINI-REVIEWS" IN PARIS BY
THOSE COUNTRIES WISHING TO PARTICIPATE. US DEL
SUGGESTED THAT ISSUE-ORIENTED STUDIES COMPARING
EXPERIENCES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES WOULD BE FAR BETTER
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THAN COUNTRY REVIEWS. PROPOSAL TO EXAMINE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS WAS SUPPORTED BY U.S., FINLAND, AND U.K. (LATTER TWO INDICATED AVAILABILITY OF WORK ALREADY DONE IN THIS FIELD.)

D) MSAC REACTION TO PROPOSED STATISTICAL WORK ON DISCOURAGED AND ILLEGAL WORKERS WAS GENERALLY NEGATIVE, NOTABLY UK, NEW ZEALAND AND FRANCE. MAJOR COMPLAINT WAS THAT DATA WAS INADEQUATE AND NOT SUFFICIENTLY COMPARABLE. HIGH PRIORITY WAS ACCORDED YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT FOLLOW-UP BY U.S. AND U.K., NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA.

E) IN GENERAL EMPLOYMENT AREA, U.S. DEL SPECIFIED PRIORITIES IN PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT, PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURES ON EMPLOYMENT AND MONITORING EMPLOYMENT SITUATION (OTHER THAN RENEWAL OF COUNTRY POLICY STUDIES).

F) IN RESPONSE TO COUNTRY COMMENTS ON WORK PROGRAM, GASS NOTED INTEREST IN NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AND PROMISED A PROPOSAL FOR AN EXPERTS' CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL POLICIES IN THE 1980S.

G) ON ROLE OF WOMEN GASS NOTED SLOWNESS OF REPORT AND ASKED FOR RESTATEMENT OF COUNTRY VIEWS ON BASIS OF THE REPORT WHICH THE WP WILL COMPLETE THIS FALL. U.S. DEL MADE STRONG APPEAL TO MSAC TO SUPPORT WP6 REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, I.E., A STATISTICIAN, ECONOMIST AND CONSULTANT FUNDS. FRANCE, FINLAND, CANADA, SWEDEN, JAPAN AND GREECE SUPPORTED U.S. DEL WHICH ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MSAC CONSIDER AT SOME POINT CHANGING ITS NAME TO, FOR EXAMPLE, "COMMITTEE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS". U.S. DEL REPORTED THAT MANPOWER ADMINISTRATION IN DOL WAS NOW CALLED EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION. WHILE THERE WAS NO GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF THIS SUGGESTION, MSAC DID SUPPORT U.S. DEL RECOMMENDATION THAT TERM "MAN-YEARS" BE REPLACED BY "STAFF-YEARS".

8. POLICIES FOR ADJUSTMENT - US DEL EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH IN THIS AREA, URGING SECRETARIAT TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. COMMITTEE REQUESTED THAT SECRETARIAT GIVE THIS WORK HIGH IMMEDIATE PRIORITY, AND AGREED TO CONSIDER AT NEXT MEETING ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING PARTY ON ADJUSTMENT.

FOLLOWING IS MSAC-APPROVED STATEMENT ON ADJUSTMENT
PROCESS:

1. NOTED THE ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE IN THE
ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL
FOR A CONSIDERATION OF POLICIES FOR ADJUSTMENT.

2. NOTED THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS FOR WORK AS
PART OF THE 1978 PROGRAM OF WORK AS ADOPTED BY THE
COUNCIL, ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY EMPLOYMENT
AND MANPOWER POLICIES AS RELATED TO THE ADJUSTMENT
PROCESS, TOGETHER WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE BY DELEGATES
ON THESE PROPOSALS.

3. EMPHASIZED THAT POLICIES SHOULD NOT BE DEVELOPED
ON THE BASIS THAT THE BURDEN OF ADJUSTMENT CAN BE
PLACED WHOLLY ON THE LABOR FORCE.

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4. AGREED THAT THE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS
WERE MOST IMPORTANT IN CONNECTION WITH STRUCTURAL
CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE WORK
BE CONCENTRATED ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.

5. REQUESTED THAT THE WORK BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY
IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND INVITED THE BUREAU TO AD-
VISE THE SECRETARIAT ON THIS WORK.

6. AGREED TO CONSIDER AT THEIR NEXT MEETING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING PARTY OF THE COMMITTEE.

9. DISADVANTAGED WORKERS - THIS REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED AS CONSULTANT'S REPORT WITHOUT MSAC ENDORSEMENT. U.S. DEL EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PAPER POINTING OUT THAT: DATA WAS OUT OF DATE; IT MADE NO REFERENCE TO YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE; UNDERSTATED STRONG ECONOMIC ARGUMENTS FOR ASSISTING THE DISADVANTAGED RATHER THAN SUBSIDIZING THEM, AND MADE SCANT REFERENCE TO NEED FOR SKILLS TRAINING AND COUNSELLING. GASS SAID COUNTRY COMMENTS WILL BE IN-UNCLASSIFIED

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CORPORATED IN REVISED PAPER.

10. SOCIAL INDICATORS: COMMITTEE APPROVED EXTENSION OF PHASE TWO AND BEGINNING OF PHASE THREE (OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION BY MEMBER STATES).

11. NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE: NOVEMBER 29 THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 1978.
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